

Corridors of Exploration: Iowa's Rivers



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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Introduction

This activity book includes information about the exploration of Iowa via our river corridors and provides opportunities to compare current river conditions/issues to those encountered by early explorers. It contains 11 activities for grades 4-8 which may be easily adapted for older students.

This booklet and supplemental aids were produced as a part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Education Program, which is designed to educate the citizenry about Iowa's aquatic resources so they may make informed, responsible decisions about their use.

The Aquatic Education Program is made possible by Sportfish Restoration funds. Monies from a 10% excise tax on boat motor fuel, fishing tackle, and related items are distributed to states based on their fishing license sales. These funds are used to enhance the state's fishery and up to ten percent of a state's monies may be spent on an Aquatic Education Program.

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How To Use This Booklet

This booklet provides activities that compare/contrast Iowa's current water quality and the quality of water when early explorers visited the state. Some activities are designed to promote problem solving skills, while others are designed for discovery and awareness. Eight rivers are included in this booklet: Mississippi, Missouri, Boyer, Des Moines, Racoon, Skunk, Cedar, and Big Sioux. The explorers discussed include Marquette and Joliet, Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, Stephen Kearny, surveyors of the General Land Office (GLO), and the Dragoons Albert Lea and Nathan Boone.

These activities may be used together as a unit, or individually. The introductory lesson, "Destination Hydracon," can be used to introduce each of the activities. Each activity includes *time* required for the activity, *vocabulary*, *objectives*, *method*, *materials* needed, *background information*, *procedure*, *evaluation*, and possible *extensions*. A list of *reference materials* is provided for more information on the topics covered.

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